

What is Claimed Is:

1. A retail system comprising:
an advance ordering system for enabling a customer to order a purchase in advance,
at least one storage facility for storing goods available for ordering, and
5 multiple purchase obtaining facilities remote with respect to the storage facility, for enabling the customer to obtain the ordered purchase delivered from the storage facility after receiving an order for the purchase from the customer,
the purchase obtaining facilities include at least one drive-through purchase obtaining facility for enabling the customer in a vehicle to pick up the
10 ordered purchase delivered to the vehicle.
2. The retail system of claim 1, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility where the ordered purchase is picked up is remote with respect to a location for placing the order.
3. The retail system of claim 1, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility comprises multiple pick-up stations, each of the pick-up stations being arranged for enabling the customer in the vehicle to pick up the ordered purchase delivered to the vehicle.
4. The retail system of claim 3, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility further comprises a control station responsive to identification (ID) data identifying the customer for automatically assigning a pick-up station of the multiple pick-up stations to the customer.
5. The retail system of claim 4, wherein the ID data provides information on the purchase ordered by the customer.

6. The retail system of claim 5, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility further comprises a service facility for handling purchases delivered from the storage facility.

7. The retail system of claim 6, wherein the control station is responsive to the ID data of the customer for providing the service facility with a request to deliver the ordered purchase to the pick-up station assigned to the customer.

8. The retail system of claim 4, wherein the control station enables the customer to enter the drive-through purchase obtaining facility only after the customer is identified.

9. The retail system of claim 4, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility further comprises at least one check-out station for enabling the customer to check out the ordered purchase without leaving the vehicle.

10. The retail system of claim 9, wherein the pick-up station is released from being assigned to the customer after the ordered purchase is checked out.

11. The retail system of claim 9, wherein the check-out station enables the customer to exit the drive-through purchase obtaining facility after the ordered purchase is checked out.

12. The retail system of claim 4, wherein the pick-up station includes a check-out arrangement for enabling the customer to automatically check out the ordered purchase.

13. A method of selling goods, comprising the steps of:
storing the goods available for sale in a storage facility,
enabling a customer to order a purchase, and

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5 enabling the customer in a vehicle to obtain the purchase in a drive-through purchase obtaining facility remote with respect to the storage facility, after a time period sufficient to deliver the purchase from the storage facility to the drive-through purchase obtaining facility, the drive-through purchase obtaining facility allows the ordered purchase to be delivered to the vehicle.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising a step of automatically assigning to the customer one of multiple pick-up stations within the drive-through purchase obtaining facility.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said one of the multiple pick-up stations is assigned to the customer in response to ID data identifying the customer.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein a request to deliver the ordered purchase to the assigned one of the multiple pick-up stations is generated simultaneously with assigning said one of the multiple pick-up stations.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein said one of the multiple pick-up stations is assigned to the customer in response to ID data identifying the ordered purchase.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein a request to deliver the ordered purchase to the assigned one of the multiple pick-up stations is generated simultaneously with assigning said one of the multiple pick-up stations.

19. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of enabling the customer to check out the ordered purchase without leaving the vehicle.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of releasing the pick-up station from being assigned to the customer after the ordered purchase is checked out.

21. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of enabling the customer to automatically check out the ordered purchase at said one of the multiple pick-up stations.

22. A drive-through retail facility for enabling a customer in a vehicle to make a purchase without leaving the vehicle, the retail facility comprising multiple purchase pick-up stations, and an assignment arrangement for automatically assigning one of the multiple pick-up stations to the customer in
5 response to information provided by the customer.

23. The facility of claim 22, wherein the pick-up stations enable the customer to obtain the purchase ordered in advance from a remote location.

24. The facility of claim 23, wherein said one of the multiple pick-up stations is automatically assigned to the customer in response to ID data identifying the ordered purchase.